



Vinton Take Home Notices for the Week Ending November 7, 2014

1. Vinton School Retake School Picture Day Notice
2. Vinton Thanksgiving Food Drive
3. Letter from Superintendent about Early Closings
4. Mansfield Community Playground update
5. UCONN People Empowering People

Please
see
Take
Home
Notices
below

Coffee Pond Photography

Retake Day Instructions

If you are not completely satisfied with your portrait and would like to try again, you have the opportunity for a free retake. Vinton School's Retake Day is **Monday, 11/17/14**. Be sure to mark your calendar! Please return the entire, undamaged portrait package to the photographer on Retake Day. If your school has class photos, please keep it! Write any suggestions for the photographer on a piece of paper so it shows through the envelope window. Retake Day is rain or shine. In the event of inclement weather, the portraits will be taken indoors against a neutral backdrop. Retake Packages will be distributed by the school approximately 3 to 5 weeks after Retake Day.

For REFUND information, please log on to www.coffeepond.com/pdf/refund
coffee pond photography

19 Strathmore Rd • Natick, MA • 01760
phone: (508) 907-6633 • fax: (508) 907-6634 • email: lifeguards@coffeepond.com

November 7, 2014



Dear Vinton Families,

As you know, we are having our Vinton Thanksgiving Feast on Friday, November 21st. In the spirit of Thanksgiving, we are having a food drive to accompany this event. If you would like to contribute, please send in any non-perishable item with your child. There will be a collection area by the office. The food drive will run from Thursday, November 20th through Tuesday, November 25th. Donations will be going to the Mansfield Food Pantry.

As always, thank you for your support and generosity. -The Vinton Staff

Happy Thanksgiving!

*The Food Pantry particularly needs toiletries: shampoo, conditioner, bath soap, toothpaste, handsoap, toilet paper
As well as food items:

Hot and cold cereal, tuna, soup, chili, pasta/rice, canned pasta and stews, box meals, coffee/tea, juices, jams, peanut butter, and crackers/snacks.



THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF MANSFIELD, CONNECTICUT

RACHEL D. LECLERC, Ed.D., ACTING SUPERINTENDENT

AUDREY P. BECK BUILDING
FOUR SOUTH EAGLEVILLE ROAD
MANSFIELD, CT 06268
Phone: (860) 429-3350

November 7, 2014

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I write to provide the annual reminder about adjustments we must make when winter weather forces us to change our school and bus schedules. As most of you know, winter weather in New England is unpredictable at best. Mansfield frequently finds itself on a rain/ice/snow line. Parents at one end of town may wonder why we have called a delay, while parents at the other end of town will expect a cancellation.

There will be occasions when we will have to delay the opening of school, cancel classes or dismiss early because of road conditions. I am sensitive to the inconvenience these decisions cause our families; however, the issue of greatest importance is the safety of children. *You are encouraged to make your own assessment of weather conditions and keep your child at home if you feel a trip to school might be too dangerous.*

I must make the decision regarding a schedule adjustment no later than 5:30 a.m. I base it upon information I receive from the town road superintendent, the bus manager and weather forecasters. *For delayed openings, buses will pick up students 90 minutes later than usual.* Schools will close at the regular time. There may be an occasion on which school must be closed early due to an approaching storm or due to increasingly difficult road conditions that make a normal closing hazardous. *If you will not be home during the day, you must make arrangements for someone to receive your child in the event of an early closing.* Early closings will be 2 hours and 45 minutes in advance of the regular dismissal time. Please note the schedule on the reverse page.

This year, we will continue to use an automated communication system to send a recorded phone message announcing school closings/delayed openings/early closings to all parents using the phone numbers provided by parents/guardians to each school. This audio message will go to parents' emails as well. Additionally, all announcements of cancellations, late openings or early closings will be made using the local media's television/radio stations. Many of these stations also post these announcements on their websites.

In addition, we can send a SMS text message to the cell phone of parent contact 1 and 2 on record in the school office for each child. In order to receive the SMS text message, you need to "opt-in". The process is simple and only takes a few seconds to complete. Simply send a text to 68453 from your cell phone(s) with the word "yes". If you do not opt-in, you will not receive the SMS text message.

If a delayed opening has been announced, you should continue to monitor local media or their websites for further information. Road conditions may deteriorate and a 90 delay may become a cancellation for the full day. *Please be sure that your children are dressed appropriately in case they have to wait longer for a bus that may be delayed due to poor road conditions.* We ask that you retain the reverse side of this letter for future reference. Your cooperation, understanding and assistance with these weather-related items are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Rachel D. Leclerc, Ed.D.

-Over, please-

EARLY-CLOSING DAYS / EMERGENCY CLOSINGS

HOURS—REGULAR SCHOOL DAY	
Grades K-4	School starts - 8:55 AM; School ends - 3:30 PM
Morning Preschool & Half-Day Kindergarten	Session starts - 8:55 AM; Session ends - 11:45 AM
Afternoon Preschool	Session starts - 12:50 PM; Session ends - 3:30 PM
Grades 5-8	School starts - 8:05 AM; School ends - 2:50 PM

90-MINUTE DELAYED OPENING*	
Grades K-4	School starts - 10:30 AM; School ends - 3:30 PM
Morning Preschool & Half-Day Kindergarten	CANCELLED
Afternoon Preschool	Session starts - 12:50 PM; Session ends - 3:30 PM
Grades 5-8	School starts - 9:35 AM; School ends - 2:50 PM

SCHEDULED EARLY-CLOSING DAYS (November 24, 25, 26 and June 22)	
Grades K-4	School starts - 8:55 AM; School ends - 12:45 PM
Half-Day Kindergarten	School day extended, dismisses - 12:45 PM <i>Note: Lunch will be provided</i>
Grades 5-8	School starts - 8:05 AM; School ends - 12:05 PM

DELAYED OPENING ON A SCHEDULED EARLY-CLOSING DAY	
<i>Early closing is CANCELLED and normal closing time observed</i>	
Grades K-4	School starts - 10:30 AM; School ends - 3:30 PM
Morning Preschool & Half-Day Kindergarten	CANCELLED
Afternoon Preschool	CANCELLED
Grades 5-8	School starts - 9:35AM; School ends - 2:50 PM

EMERGENCY EARLY CLOSING OF SCHOOL	
Grades K-4	School dismisses - 12:45 PM
Morning Preschool & Half-Day Kindergarten	School day extended, dismisses - 12:45 PM <i>Note: Lunch will be provided</i>
Afternoon Preschool	CANCELLED
Grades 5-8	School dismisses - 12:05 PM

For information regarding school closing due to inclement weather or other emergencies, tune in to one of the following radio or television stations:

Radio: WILI 1400 AM & 98.3 FM, WTIC 1080 AM, WTIC FM 96.5, WRCH FM 100.5, WZMX FM 93.7

Television: WFSB (3), WVIT (30), WTIC (6), WTNH (8), Cable Channel 14

School Messenger recorded phone messages will announce school closings or other emergencies. Information is also available via a message on your school's main phone number.

**Stay tuned. If weather conditions deteriorate, a delay could become a full-day cancellation.*

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS?

How can I help?

How much money has been raised?

How much money is left to be raised?

How will money be raised?

Where will the playground be located?

Who is building this playground?



What materials will be used?

Who can use this playground?

What will the playground look like?

Who designed this playground?

Who is in charge of this project?

Whose idea was this anyhow?!

WE HAVE ANSWERS!

You're invited to attend the

MANSFIELD COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND Update

Wednesday, November 19th, 7pm

At the Buchanan Auditorium

(Mansfield Public Library)

54 Warrenville Road

Mansfield Center

More questions? Contact Maggie Ferron at

Maggie@mansfieldcommunityplayground.org

Attention Chaplin, Coventry & Mansfield residents

UConn

PEOPLE EMPOWERING PEOPLE

Coventry, Mansfield and Chaplin are pleased to offer the UConn People Empowering People (PEP) class this winter!

What is UConn PEP? The UConn People Empowering People (PEP) Program is a parent leadership program. UConn PEP is designed to build on the unique strengths and life experiences of participants and emphasize the connection between individual and community action.

How does UConn PEP work? UConn PEP participants attend ten weekly two-hour sessions focused on values, communication skills, problem solving skills, parenting skills, leadership skills, action planning and community opportunity. Participants then participate in a project to benefit their community.

Who conducts UConn PEP? The facilitators will be Kathleen Krider and Jeff Smithson (to learn more about them, visit www.coventrysteps.com).

- ✧ **Do you want to learn more about your community?**
- ✧ **Do you want to advocate for young children & their families?**
- ✧ **Do you want to meet new people and get involved?**

READ ON!!

UConn PEP classes **will begin in January** and will be held at the Mansfield Discovery Depot on Thursday evenings from 5:30-8:00 pm. Dinner will be available at 5:30-6 pm and childcare will be available. There is no cost to participate in this exciting opportunity, as Coventry STEPS secured grant funding for this program

**Visit www.coventrysteps.com for more information:
coventrysteps@yahoo.com
or call 860-377-5203.**